

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-3, without prejudice.

1-3. Cancelled

1 4. (New) A network comprising:

2 One or more stations implementing a Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP);

3 a network firewall coupled to the first station; and

4 a public proxy/gatekeeper (PPG), coupled to the router, to masquerade un-

5 translated IP addresses received from the one or more stations via the firewall.

1 5. (New) The network of claim 4 wherein the PPG comprises a masquerade module

2 to translate private IP addresses received from each of the one or more stations to a public

3 address associated with a private network to which the one or more stations are coupled.

1 6. (New) The network of claim 5 wherein the masquerade module compares IP

2 addresses embedded within a data portion of each received packet to a source IP address

3 in a header of each received packet.

1 7. (New) The network of claim 6 wherein the masquerade module masquerades the

2 private IP address if the embedded IP address does not match the source IP address.

1 8. (New) The network of claim 5 wherein the PPG further comprises a port

2 assignment module to assign a dedicated port to each of the one or more stations to

3 implement VOIP communications from behind the firewall.

1 9. (New) The network of claim 8 wherein the port assignment module calculates an

- 2 index value used to assign the dedicated port for each of the one or more stations.
- 1 10. (New) The network of claim 9 wherein the index value is calculated by assigning
2 a value corresponding to the number of stations coupled behind the firewall.
- 1 11. (New) The network of claim 9 wherein the index value is calculated by assigning
2 a value corresponding to the least significant byte of the private IP address associated
3 with each of the one or more stations.
- 1 12. (New) The network of claim 9 wherein the PPG further comprises a registration
2 module to receive a media access control (MAC) address for each of the one more
3 stations during a registration phase.
- 1 13. (New) The network of claim 12 wherein the registration module transmits an
2 index value to each of the one or more stations to confirm registration.
- 1 14. (New) A public proxy/gatekeeper (PPG) comprising a masquerade module to
2 translate private IP addresses received from one or more Voice Over Internet Protocol
3 (VOIP) stations to a public address associated with a private network to which the one or
4 more stations are coupled.
- 1 15. (New) The PPG of claim 14 wherein the masquerade module compares IP
2 addresses embedded within a data portion of each received packet to a source IP address
3 in a header of each received packet.
- 1 16. (New) The PPG of claim 15 wherein the masquerade module masquerades the
2 private IP address if the embedded IP address does not match the source IP address.

1 17. (New) The PPG of claim 14 further comprising a port assignment module to
2 assign a dedicated port to each of the one or more stations to implement VOIP
3 communications from behind a firewall coupled to the one or more stations.

1 18. (New) The PPG of claim 17 wherein the port assignment module calculates an
2 index value used to assign the dedicated port for each of the one or more stations.

1 19. (New) The PPG of claim 18 wherein the index value is calculated by assigning a
2 value corresponding to the number of stations coupled behind the firewall.

1 20. (New) The PPG of claim 18 wherein the index value is calculated by assigning a
2 value corresponding to the least significant byte of a private IP address associated with
3 each of the one or more stations.

1 21. (New) The PPG of claim 18 further comprising a registration module to receive a
2 media access control (MAC) address for each of the one more stations during a
3 registration phase.

1 22. (New) The PPG of claim 21 wherein the registration module transmits an index
2 value to each of the one or more stations to confirm registration.

1 23. (New) A method comprising:
2 receiving data at a public proxy/gatekeeper (PPG) from a station implementing a
3 Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP); and
4 translating a private IP address received from the station to a public address
5 associated with a private network to which the station is coupled.

1 24. (New) The method of claim 23 wherein translating the private address to a public
2 address comprises:

3 comparing an IP address embedded within a data portion of each data packet
4 received from the station to a source IP address in a header portion of each data packet;
5 and

6 translating the private IP address of the station to the public address if the
7 embedded IP address does not match the source IP address.

1 25. (New) The method of claim 23 further comprising assigning a dedicated port to
2 the stations.

1 26. (New) A network comprising:

2 a network firewall; and

3 a station implementing Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP), coupled to the
4 firewall, to transmit dummy packets to the firewall at predetermined intervals to maintain
5 open ports behind the firewall to enable call signaling from devices external to the
6 firewall.

1 27. (New) The network of claim 26 wherein the station comprises a heartbeat
2 generator to transmit the dummy packets upon a counter reaching the predetermined
3 interval.

1 28. (New) The network of claim 27 wherein the station further comprises a port
2 assignment module to assign a dedicated port to the station.

1 29. (New) The network of claim 28 wherein the dedicated port is assigned by adding

2 an index value received from a proxy/gatekeeper (PPG) to a base port value.

1 30. (New) The network of claim 28 wherein the dedicated port is assigned by adding
2 the least significant byte of a private IP address of the station to a base port value.

1 31. (New) The network of claim 26 urther comprising:
2 an audio CODEC to encode and decode audio data at the station; and
3 a video CODEC to encode and decode video data at the station.

1 32. (New) Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) station comprising a heartbeat
2 generator to transmit dummy packets to a network firewall at predetermined intervals to
3 maintain an open port behind the firewall to enable call signaling from devices external to
4 the firewall.

1 33. (New) The station of claim 32 wherein the heartbeat generator transmits the
2 dummy packets upon a counter reaching the predetermined interval.

1 34. (New) The station of claim 33 further comprising a port assignment module to
2 assign a dedicated port to the station.

1 35. (New) The station of claim 34 wherein the dedicated port is assigned by adding
2 an index value received from a proxy/gatekeeper (PPG) to a base port value.

1 36. (New) The station of claim 34 wherein the dedicated port is assigned by adding
2 the least significant byte of a private IP address of the station to a base port value.

1 37. (New) The station of claim 32 further comprising:
2 an audio CODEC to encode and decode audio data at the station; and

- 3 a video CODEC to encode and decode video data at the station.